Amendments to the Claims:

1 - 17 (canceled)

18. (new) A device for consolidating a fiber composite conveyed continuously along a conveying path by action upon said fiber composite with heat or for cooling, with at least one nozzle arrangement on at least one side of the conveying path for blowing an, in particular, heated treatment medium in the direction of the conveying path, the at least one nozzle arrangement having a plurality of blowing nozzles lying next to one another and arranged at a distance from one another, and an interspace being formed in each case between two adjacent blowing nozzles, wherein the interspace between the blowing nozzles is essentially closed or closable with respect to the conveying path.

19. (new) A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the interspace between the blowing nozzles is closed in such a way that, between the at least one nozzle arrangement and the fiber composite, a pressure space is formed in which an excess pressure can be generated by means of the blowing nozzles.

20. (new) A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the interspace is closed off or closable off in such a way that, in the case of a predetermined fiber composite and in the case of a predetermined outflow velocity and outflow quantity of the treatment medium from the blowing nozzles, the treatment medium can be blown through the entire thickness of the fiber composite.

21. (new) The device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the blowing nozzles have a blowing orifice which terminates adjacently to the surface of the fiber composite.

22. (new) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the distance between the surface of the fiber composite and the blowing orifice is adjustable.

23. (new) The device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the interspaces between the blowing nozzles are closed or closable by means of sealing elements which can be inserted, in particular pushed in, between the blowing nozzles.

24. (new) The device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the blowing nozzles are designed as wide-slit nozzles which extend essentially over the entire width of the conveying path, and the blowing nozzles are provided with a nozzle box having a cross section which decreases from a connecting orifice, at which treatment medium can be blown into the nozzle box, toward a closed end of the nozzle box.

25. (new) The device as claimed in claim 18, wherein nozzle arrangements are arranged on both sides of the conveying path.

26. (new) The device as claimed in claim 25, wherein a plurality of blowing nozzles are combined into groups, and the groups of blowing nozzles are activatable and deactivatable individually.

27. (new) The device as claimed in claim 26, wherein the interspace between deactivated blowing nozzles is opened or openable.

28. (new) The device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the device is provided with at least one fan and with at least one heating device which are designed in such a way that 500 to 2000 m^3 of air per hour, with a temperature of 0 to 300°C and with a velocity of 0.5 to 70 m per second can be blown against the fiber composite per blowing nozzle and per meter of work width.

29. (new) A method for consolidating a fiber composite by action upon the fiber composite with heat, comprising steps of

conveying the fiber composite along a conveying path

blowing a heated treatment medium in the direction of the fiber composite by means of blowing nozzles which are arranged next to one another and which in each case delimit an interspace the interspace being closed off, with the result that an excess pressure is generated in a pressure space continuous to the fiber composite, and the treatment medium being blown through the entire thickness of the fiber composite.

30. (new) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the treatment medium is blown into the fiber composite directly by a blowing orifice of the blowing nozzles which is arranged adjacently to the surface of the fiber composite.

31. (new) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the distance between the blowing orifice of the blowing nozzle and the surface of the fiber composite is set at a predeterminable value.

32. (new) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein, as seen in the conveying direction, the treatment medium is blown against the fiber composite alternately from one side and from the other side.

33. (new) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein groups of blowing nozzles are activated and deactivated alternately on one side of the fiber composite, and the interspace between deactivating blowing nozzles is opened in order to allow the outflow of the treatment medium.

34. (new) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the treatment medium is blown out of the blowing nozzles at an outflow velocity of 0.5 to 70 meters per second, and 500 to 2000 m^3 per hour of the treatment medium is blown out per blowing nozzle and per meter of working width.